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Seidman Research Papers

Workshops, Notes and Papers

Draft work plan - Lao visiting scholars

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Boston University

DRAFT WORK PLAN - LAO VISITING SCHOLARS
September 16-December 15

Introduction: This suggested work plan outlines the work you will need to do for the next three months (12 weeks) to enable you to complete your assignment. That assignment consists of three parts:

(1) to complete research reports and consider possible revisions of the four primary bills:

1. Check law
2. Electricity law
3. Mining law
4. Transport law

(2) to draft outlines for the research reports and the main issues to include in the four secondary bills:

5. Commerical law
6. Urban planning
7. Special economic zones
8. Local government administration

and (3) to review and improve the Lao Legislative Drafting Handbook.

This work plan aims to enable you to learn legislative theory and methodology and how to teach it (including revising the Lao Handbook). It will give you an opportunity to read (and suggest improvements to) the Lao handbook. You should also read as many additional materials in English as you can. The work plan assumes you will work together in each seminar to discuss and improve the relevant aspects of your bills and research reports.

All seminars, except Law and Development will meet in Room 920B; Law and Development will meet in Room 734. You will need to make arrangements separately to meet with the professors with whom you will discuss the foreign law and experience relevant to your two bills.

I. Week 1:

A. September 16, 10:30 AM: Review

Read: Law and Development Textbook, Seidman & Seidman, Chs. 2 and 3)

Main points:

1. Law can only address behavior

2. Begin discussion: what is social problem and whose and what behaviors comprise the problem your primary bills aim to change.

B. September 17: 2:00 PM: Review

Assignment: Prepare a written problem statement (in Lao or English) on the social problem and whose and what behaviors comprises it for your bill

Main point:

1. Review and discuss your problem problem statements (note: On Thursday, BU students will prepare their problem statments on the four problems areas in countries of their choice; and you will receive copies)

C. September 18: Legislative Techniques: Bob-

Read: Lao handbook (read pp.)

Main points:

1. Begin discussion of problem-solving methodology as a basis for your research reports
2. Begin to prepare outlines of research report for your bills (for presentation and discussion the next Wednesday, September 25)

D. September 19: Law & Development: Theory (read textbook, Ch. 4)

1. Debates
 - a. On problem-solving vs other methodologies
 - b. On Law and Economics' methodology

II. Week 2:

A. September 23: Social science research techniques:

Main points:

1. What kinds of facts will you need for your research report to describe the problem your bill addresses?
2. What facts do you now have and how can you get the additional facts you need in Lao PDR?

B. September 24: Methods of teaching legislative drafting:

Read: Paolo Freire chapter (handout)

Main points:

1. How could you create a learning process for Lao drafters by drafting actual bills and research reports?

C. September 25: Legislative drafting techniques

Read pp. ___ of Lao Handbook:

Main points:

1. Present and discuss the outlines you have written for your proposed research reports;

2. Review and suggest improvements for the section of Lao handbook on research reports.

D. September 26: Law and Development: See the Law and Development syllabus for readings and debates.

E. By September 27: Each of you should have met with a consultant to discuss foreign law and experience relating to your primary bill to discuss the problem the bill will address and to arrange a time for regular meetings (two hours a week).

III. Week 3 (September 30-October 4): Write up and discuss the section of your research report on the probable causes of the problematic behaviors your primary bill aims to change (Read and suggest improvements in section of Lao handbook on causes).

IV. Week 4 (October 7-11): Review the existing primary bill in terms of the extent to which its detailed measures seems likely to change the causes of the social actors' behaviors that comprise the problem that bill aims to overcome. Write a paragraph on other solutions, if any, that logically seem likely to help overcome the causes (including those suggested by foreign law and experience). (Read and suggest improvements in the section on solutions in the Lao Handbook.)

V. Week 5 (October 14-18): Weigh the facts concerning the probable social costs and benefits of the existing bill's measures and alternative possible solutions to help you decide which measures should be incorporated in the final draft. (Read and suggest improvements in section of the Lao Handbook on weighing social costs and benefits).

VI. Week 6 (October 21-25: Critique the form of the existing bill, and propose changes if needed. (Read and suggest improvements in the section of the Lao Handbook on form of bills).

VII. Weeks 7-11 (October 28-November 29):

- A. Continue to review and improve your primary bills and accompanying research reports and research reports in

discussion with your consultants on relevant foreign law and experience;

B. Work on further improvements in the Lao Handbook in light of your review and criticisms of it.

C. Using the same theory and methodology to structure your analysis, begin working on outlining the research reports for your secondary bills as a basis for identifying the central issues the bills must address. You should begin meeting with professors who will help you learn foreign law and experience relating to your secondary bills.

VIII. Week 12 (December 2-6): Hold review sessions, one each day, to assess and suggest improvements (and, if necessary, further research in Lao) for final drafts all four the primary bills and accompanying research reports)

IX. Week 13 (December 9-13): Hold review sessions, one each day, to assess and suggest improvements for preliminary drafts of all four secondary bills and accompanying research reports. In particular, discuss the kinds of further research that should be conducted in Lao PDR in order to complete the research reports for your secondary bills.

X.